W. 02113A-07-0551



# ORIGINAL

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION ( )

#### UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Reg Lopez

Phone:

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion** 

No. 2008 - 71713

Date: 9/25/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By:

Dennis G.

Thompson

**Account Name:** 

Dennis G. Thompson

**Homes** 

Street:

Work:

City:

Fountain Hills

CBR:

State:

ΑZ

**Zip:** 85268

is: E-Mail

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

Division:

Water

**Contact Name:** 

**Contact Phone:** 

#### **Nature of Complaint:**

Received the following e-mailed ACC Complaint Form dated 9-25-08:

From: Dennis Thompson |

Sent: Thursday, September 25, 2008 11:52 AM

To: Utilities Div - Mailbox

Subject: Docket W-02113A-07-0551

Please see my attached comments on the subject Docket item.

Arizona Commission DOCKETED

007 -1 2008

Dennis Thompson Fountain Hills, AZ 85268



While a rate increase may be indicated, the 41.4 percent is unconscionable!

I note that when reading my meter each month, they utilize two persons and a pick up truck. One sits in the truck and the other gets out at each stop and reads the meter. The excessive use of manpower to complete a simple task represents an organization that is poorly managed with o regard to minimizing operational expense. If it is the norm for them then I would suggest that they review staffing and effective use of personnel to reduce operating expenses and adjust their request downwards as indicated. \*End of Complaint\*

**Utilities' Response:** 

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

#### **Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

I replied to the customer with the following e-mail:

Re: Chaparral City Water Company Docket No. W-02113A-07-0551

Dear Mr. Thompson:

This is to acknowledge your e-mail dated September 25, 2008, regarding the Chaparral City Water Company rate case. Your comments will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission, and made a part of the record in this application. The Commissioners will consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the Company's application.

Customer concerns addressed in letters, telephone calls and e-mails will assist staff in the investigation and review of the rate application. Staff's analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please contact me via e-mail or by telephone at 1-800-535-0148.

Sincerely,

Reg Lopez Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II Utilities Division

9-25 E-mailed this OPINION to Trish Meeter to have this OPINION docketed towards Chaparral City Water Company rate case, docket no. W-02113A-07-0551. File closed. \*End of Comments\*

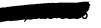
Date Completed: 9/25/2008

#### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

**Investigator: Richard Martinez** 

Phone:



Fax

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion** 

No. 2008

71785

Date: 9/30/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

**Complaint By:** 

Eric W.

**Bulfinch** 

**Account Name:** 

Eric W. Bulfinch

Street:

Home: Work:

City:

Fountain Hills

CBR:

ΑZ **Zip**: 85268 is: E-Mail State:

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

Division:

Water

**Contact Name:** 

Contact Phone:

# **Nature of Complaint:**

Received the following:

They are making a 3% profit in a down economy, so why is any rate increase justified? Also, a 41% increase is outrageous in any market condition.

\*End of Complaint\*

# **Utilities' Response:**

\*End of Response\*

### **Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

Replied with the following via email:

Re: Chaparral City Water Company Docket No. W-02113A-07-0551

Dear Mr. Eric Bulfinch:

Your correspondence regarding the Chaparral City Water Company rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission to be made part of the record. The Commissioners will have the opportunity to consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the Company application.

The concerns raised in letters, phone calls and e-mails received from customers will assist staff in the investigation and review of the rate application. Staff's independent analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at 800-535-0148. .

Sincerely,

Richard Martinez Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II Utilities Division

9-30 E-mailed Trish Meeter @ ACC's Phoenix Office to have this OPINION docketed towards Chaparral City Water Company, docket No. W-02113A-07-0551. File closed. \*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/30/2008

#### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Trish Meeter

Phone:

Fax:

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion** 

No. 2008

71786

Date: 9/30/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

**Complaint By:** 

Ronald

Fett Sr.

**Account Name:** 

Ronald Fett

Street:

Home: Work:

City:

Fountain Hills

CBR: 6

State:

ΑZ **Zip**: 85269 is: Cellular

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

**Division:** 

Water

**Contact Name:** 

Contact Phone: (

#### **Nature of Complaint:**

9/29

Docket No. W-02113A-07-0551

From: Ron Fett

Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2008 12:11 PM

To: Utilities Div - Mailbox

Subject: Proposed Chaparral City Water Co rate increase

Attached you will find my AZCC Public Comment Form voicing my opposition to the Chaparral City Water Co. rate increase.

Ron Fett Sr.

Home rfett@cox.net

I am against this 41% increase in my water rate. I am struggling now to make ends meet on a fixed retirement income and this increase would make it much more difficult to survive in today's economy. \*End of Complaint\*

# **Utilities' Response:**

# **Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

9/30 September 30, 2008

RE: CHAPARRAL CITY WATER CO.

Dear Mr. Fett:

Your email regarding the Chaparral City Water Co. ("CCWC") rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to be made part of the record. The Commission will consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the CCWC application.

The concerns raised in letters and emails received from customers will assist the Commission in the investigation and review of the rate application. The Commission's independent analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the proposed rate increase.

Sincerely.

Trish Meeter
Consumer Service Analyst
Utilities Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/30/2008

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#### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

**Investigator: Trish Meeter** 

Phone: 1

Fax

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion** 

No. 2008

71787

Date: 9/30/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

Zip: n/a

First:

Last:

**Complaint By:** 

Larry

**Marshbanks** 

**Account Name:** 

Larry Marshbanks

Home: (000) 000-0000

Street:

Work:

City:

n/a

CBR:

State:

ΑZ

is:

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

**Division:** 

Water

**Contact Name:** 

Contact Phone:

**Nature of Complaint:** 

9/29 W-02113A-07-0551

From: Larry Marshbanks

Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2008 3:14 PM

To: Utilities Div - Mailbox Subject: Increase in Water`

To Whom it may Concern,

I have been a resident of Fountain Hills for 21 years and have seen lots of changes during that time. The most outrageous move that I see today is the proposal for Chaparral Water to raise it's rates by 41%. Is this another move by private companies to go bankrupt and have the citizens bail them out? I respectfully request to have this company audited and find out the real reason they want to increase our water rates so much. We don't use water as much as other cities and to my knowledge there is not any irrigation usage like other cities that really waste water. I have desert front and back yards to curb my water usage but that seems not enough and most other homeowners do the same. How in the world can the water company want so much of an increase. Please carefully investigate this company and don't let this happen to our town.

Thank you Respectfully

Larry Marshbanks marslarr@cox.net \*End of Complaint\*

# **Utilities' Response:**

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

### **Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

9/30

September 30, 2008

Dear Mr. Marshbanks:

Your email regarding the Chaparral City Water Co. ("CCWC") rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Section of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission"). It will be made a part of the record and brought to the attention of the Commissioners. Your comments will be considered by the Commission before rendering a decision on CCWC rate case.

A review of the utility's application and statistical information is conducted by a designated Staff auditor. The operating expenses claimed by the utility are examined and compared to the revenues received for the service provided.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the Phoenix area.

Sincerely,

Trish Meeter Consumer Services Analyst Utilities Division Arizona Corporation Commission \*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/30/2008

W. 12113A-07-0551

#### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Reg Lopez

Phone:

Fax:

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion** 

No. 2008

71790

Date: 9/30/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By:

Nancy

**Scaife** 

**Account Name:** 

Nancy Scaife

Home Work:

Street:

00000000

CBR: 1

City:

State:

**Zip**: 000000

is: E-Mail

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

**Division:** 

Water

ΑZ

**Contact Name:** 

Contact Phone:



# **Nature of Complaint:**

Received the following Acc Public Comment Form dated 9-24-08:

I am totally against Chaparral City Water raising rates by 41% Most of the people that live in our town are either retired on a fixed income of young families that are trying to get by. We would understand a small raise increase but when is a 41% increase acceptable? My family already is very conscious about not wasting water. We conserve water in every way possible to save money on our water bill. Please listen to those that care about this increase. It would be very hard for families to pay this outrageous rate. \*End of Complaint\*

# **Utilities' Response:**

# **Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

I called the customer @ 9:33am and left voice mail message. Acknowledged receipt of her ACC Public Comment Form dated 9-24-08, and that her comments would be noted as a permanent record in this Company's rate application. I further advised that her comments would be considered before a final decision was rendered in this application. I extended thanks for taking the time to express her opinion.

9-30 @ 9: 40am. E-mailed Trish Meeter at the ACC's Phoenix Office to have this OPINION docketed towards docket no.W-02113A-07-0551. File closed. \*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/30/2008

#### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

**Investigator: Trish Meeter** 

Phone: (

Fax:

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion** 

No. 2008

71793

Date: 9/30/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

**Complaint By:** 

Paul

Sharrit

**Account Name:** 

Paul Sharrit

Street:

Home: Work:

City:

Fountain Hills

CBR:

State:

ΑZ

**Zip**: 85269

is:

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

**Division:** 

Water

**Contact Name:** 

Contact Phone:

# **Nature of Complaint:**

9/29

From: Paul

Sent: Sunday, September 28, 2008 3:19 PM

To: Utilities Div - Mailbox

Subject: Docket W-02113A-07-0551 Chaparral City Water Rate Increase

Please consider the attached Arizona Corporation Commission Public Comment Form for the rate increase request by Chaparral City Water Company.

Thank you,

Paul Sharrit

Chaparral City Water Company's request for a 41% increase in water rates is exorbitant and inconsistent with the service and product they provide us as residents of Fountain Hills. The management of the company appears to us, as customers, to be very inefficient, wasteful, ignoring customer comments and requests. Over the last two years, we have had dramatically varying month-to-month bills but our water use is highly automated and well monitored. When we went to their office to discuss the 100 to 200% variations month-to-month they refused to view the data and said that they read the meter every month and do not estimate or project billing values. I asked them to re-read the meter for the current month, which they promised to do, but they never made contact with me, only sending us a late payment notice. \*End of Complaint\*

# **Utilities' Response:**

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

# **Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

9/30

Dear Mr. Sharitt:

Your email regarding Chaparral City Water Company ("CCWC") rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to be made part of the record. The Commission will consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the CCWC application.

Sincerely,

Trish Meeter Consumer Services Analyst Utilities Division Arizona Corporation Commission

9/30

Called customer and left voice message requesting a return call regarding more specific information with his billing concerns.

\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/30/2008

W-02113A-07-0551

#### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

**Investigator: Richard Martinez** 

Phone:

Fax:

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

Opinion

No. 2008

71799

Date: 9/30/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Complaint By:

John & Lorraine

Abbott

Account Name:

John & Lorraine Abbott

Home:

Street:

Work:

City:

Fountain Hills

CBR:

State:

ΑZ

Zip: 85269

is: E-Mail

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

Division:

Water

**Contact Name:** 

Contact Phone:

# **Nature of Complaint:**

Received the following correspondence:

We object to the proposed increase.

\*End of Complaint\*

**Utilities' Response:** 

# **Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

I emailed the following to customers:

Re: Chaparral City Water Company Docket No. W-02113A-07-0551

Dear Mr & Mrs. Abbott:

Your correspondence regarding the Chaparral City Water Company rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission to be made part of the record. The Commissioners will have the opportunity to consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the Company application.

The concerns raised in letters, phone calls and e-mails received from customers will assist staff in the investigation and review of the rate application. Staff's independent analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at 800-535-0148.

Sincerely,

Richard Martinez
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II
Utilities Division

9-30 E-mailed Trish Meeter @ ACC's Phoenix Office to have this OPINION docketed towards Chaparral City Water Company, docket No. W-02113A-07-0551. File closed. \*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/30/2008

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

Investigator: Trish Meeter

Phone:

Fax:

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion** 

No. 2008

71800

Date: 9/30/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

**Complaint By:** 

Dawn

Woods

**Account Name:** 

**Dawn Woods** 

Street:

Work:

City:

Fountain Hills

CBR:

Home:

State:

ΑZ

Zip: 85268

is:

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

Division:

Water

**Contact Name:** 

Contact Phone:

#### **Nature of Complaint:**

9/29

#### dawnw@sonoranlifestyle.com

I am opposed to the Chapparal City Water Company raising their rates 41% for the property owners in Fountain Hills. The is an outrageous increase in these days of high gas prices and banking and financial institutions bailouts. There is only so much "blood in a turnip."

I join the Town Council's support of RUCO, the residential Utility Consumer Office that will argue the case on behalf of Fountain Hills' citizens.

Please, a profit of 3% is better than I receive in the stock market and they need to get in tune with the reality of our economic situation.

\*End of Complaint\*

#### **Utilities' Response:**

# **Investigator's Comments and Disposition:**

September 30, 2008

RE: CHAPARRAL CITY WATER CO.

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

Dear Ms. Woods:

Your email regarding the Chaparral City Water Co. ("CCWC") rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to be made part of the record. The Commission will consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the CCWC application. The concerns raised in letters and emails received from customers will assist the Commission in the investigation and review of the rate application. The Commission's independent analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at the in-state toll free at (800) 222-7000 if outside the Phoenix area.

Sincerely,

Trish Meeter
Consumer Service Analyst
Utilities Division
Arizona Corporation Commission
\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/30/2008

#### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

**Investigator: Richard Martinez** 

Phone:

Fax:

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion** 

No. 2008

71809

Date: 9/30/2008

**Complaint Description:** 

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

**Complaint By:** 

Billie Jon

King

**Account Name:** 

Billie Jon King

Street:

Home: Work:

City:

Fountain Hills

CBR:

State:

ΑZ

**Zip**: 85268

is: E-Mail

**Utility Company.** 

**Chaparral City Water Company** 

Division:

Water

**Contact Name:** 

**Contact Phone:** 



# **Nature of Complaint:**

Received the following correspondence:

While many utilities are raising rates in our current economic environment, the proposed 41% rate increase requested by Chaparral City Water Company is unreasonable. The company has failed to justify this increase, and it should not be approved.

The magnitude of this increase indicates the company has not been well managed. Reasonable incremental utility rate increases should be sought over time to spread the impact on customers who must adjust their budgets to absorb such increased household expenses.

Lurge the Commission to recommend that Chaparral City Water Company reduce their current request to a more reasonable increase.

\*End of Complaint\*

# **Utilities' Response:**

na

\*End of Response\*

#### Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

I responded via email with the following:

Re: Chaparral City Water Company Docket No. W-02113A-07-0551

Dear Billie Jon King:

Your correspondence regarding the Chaparral City Water Company rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission to be made part of the record. The

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

Commissioners will have the opportunity to consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the Company application.

The concerns raised in letters, phone calls and e-mails received from customers will assist staff in the investigation and review of the rate application. Staff's independent analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me at 800-535-0148.

Sincerely,

Richard Martinez
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst II
Utilities Division

9-30 E-mailed Trish Meeter @ ACC's Phoenix Office to have this OPINION docketed towards Chaparral City Water Company, docket No. W-02113A-07-0551. File closed. \*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 9/30/2008

#### ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

#### **UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM**

Investigator: Trish Meeter Phone:

**Priority: Respond Within Five Days** 

**Opinion No.** 2008 71824

**Complaint Description:** 

**Account Name:** 

Street:

08A Rate Case Items - Opposed

N/A Not Applicable

First:

Last:

Larson

Complaint By: Alexandra B

Alexandra B Larson

· ·

City: Fountain Hills

**State:** AZ **Zip**: 85268

**Utility Company.** Chaparral City Water Company

**Division:** Water

Contact Name:

Contact Phone: (

Home:

Work:

CBR:

is:

Fax: (

Date: 10/1/2008

**Nature of Complaint:** 

9/30 9/27/2008

Alexandra B. Larson

Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Phone (Home): (480) 837-7041 Email: sandylar@cox.net

Docket you wish to comment on: Chaparral City Water Company

Docket Number: W-02113A-07-0551

Case or Utility Name: Chaparral City Water Company

Position on Docket: Con

It is absurb to recommend a rate increase as high as Chaparral City Water Company is requesting. If the company is managing their finances diligently and planning ahead, I can tolerate a rate increase of no more than 3%. I received a 6% increase in wages this year and need to share that with other service increases as well. Thank you.

\*End of Complaint\*

# <u>Utilities' Response:</u>

Investigator's Comments and Disposition:

# ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION UTILITY COMPLAINT FORM

October 1, 2008

RE: CHAPARRAL CITY WATER CO.

Dear Ms. Larson:

Your letter regarding the Chaparral City Water Co. ("CCWC") rate case will be placed on file with the Docket Control Center of the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission") to be made part of the record. The Commission will consider your comments before a decision is rendered in the CCWC application.

The concerns raised in letters received from customers will assist the Commission in the investigation and review of the rate application. The Commission's independent analysis of the utility and its rate request attempts to balance the interest of the utility and its customers.

Commission Staff is very sensitive to the burden that high utility rates can place on the consumer, and though constitutionally required to allow a fair return to the utility, does everything within its authority to protect the consumer.

Staff appreciates your comments and the interest taken on the proposed rate increase. If you should have any questions relating to this issue, please call me toll free at (800) 222-7000.

Sincerely,

Trish Meeter
Public Utilities Consumer Analyst
Utilities Division
\*End of Comments\*

Date Completed: 10/1/2008